

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. XV, No. 4, April, 1917

EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

Is It Worth While?—Authentic figures place the total registration of those entitled to practice the healing art in all its forms, in California, at approximately seven thousand. [Year 1917] These licentiates are distributed in the following groups, the figures being approximate, but substantially correct:

Regular	(about) 4,658
Homeopathic	(about) 800
Eclectic	(about) 400
Osteopathic	(about) 1,012
Prior to 1907.....	800
Since 1907	212
Drugless Healers.....	(about) 130
	(About) 7,000

It is stated in Article I, Section 2, of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Medical Society of the State of California, that "the purpose of this Society shall be to federate and bring into one compact organization the entire medical profession of the State of California . . ." etc.

The membership of the Society is, at the present writing, about 2,700. There are somewhat more than 4,600 (excluding the few who would be denied admission) physicians eligible to membership in the Society. For some reason or other, your Society has failed to the extent of just 42 per cent in its object, viz: "to bring into one compact organization the entire medical profession of the State of California."

What does membership in this Society mean?

What does it do for each one of you that would be of advantage to those who have not joined its ranks?

Is it worth while?

The State Society, representing as it does the only organized body of "regular" practitioners, is the spokesman of medical thought and opinion before the Legislature. . . .

The membership in the Society carries with it insurance against suits for malpractice. . . . [Discontinued]

For a sum, in addition to the regular dues, about half that charged by the commercial insurance carriers, a fund is maintained for the payment of indemnity in case of a judgment rendered against a participant in this fund. Membership in the Society carries with it the right to become a member of this fund. [Discontinued]

These features, organization, representation, insurance, indemnity, to which add the subscription to the Journal, and the scientific activities of the Society, represent what membership in the Society does for each and every one of you. . . .

The Journal and Its Problems.—We are in receipt of numerous communications from authors of papers to the effect that papers submitted by them have remained so long unpublished, some of them more than a year. Each writer seems to feel that this office has some particular reason for withholding from publicity his particular offering. . . .

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BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

News

"International complications involving the United States and China entered into the discussion of a proposal to cut license fees of herbalists from \$50 to \$10 now under consideration by the city council's ordinance committee. Representing the six Chinese herbalists in Long Beach, Attorney Louis N. Whealton this week asked that the committee consider a reduction in the license fees of the herbalists from \$50 to \$10 a year, and stated that the present fee violated a treaty made by the United States and China in 1924. . . . He said under the terms of the treaty, American doctors are permitted to practice on equal terms with Chinese doctors in China, in exchange for the same privilege being granted to Chinese practitioners in America." (Los Angeles *Independent*, Jan. 9, 1942.) The Board of Medical Examiners has been informed that there is no law regulating the practice of medicine in China, except in the British possessions.

"Dr. Roy L. Buffum, Long Beach physician, Dr. J. J. Tobinski of Los Angeles, and J. C. Martin, physiotherapist, were accused of acts of illegal surgery in a complaint issued yesterday at the District Attorney's office. The charges, filed by Deputy District Attorney Charles Matthews, accuse the trio of having arranged for and performed illegal operations on six women patients, five of them residents of the Long Beach area. Dr. Tobinski, aided by Martin, actually performed the operations, according to Matthews, in a clinic in an office building near Fourth and Hill streets, which was raided by state and county agents last Friday. It is charged that Dr. Buffum directed patients to the office. All three men deny the charges, but are to be confronted in court, prosecutors say, with numerous ex-patients, including the six who were named in the complaint as victims." (Los Angeles *Examiner*, Jan. 21, 1942.)

"Dr. Francis Scott Smyth, professor of pediatrics at the University of California Medical School, will be the new dean of the school, according to reliable reports yesterday. . . . Dr. Smyth, a native of Portland, Ore., was graduated in 1922 from the medical school he is to head. After postgraduate work in Boston he returned to the west coast and joined the University of California Medical School as professor of pediatrics in 1932." (San Francisco *Examiner*, Jan. 20, 1942.)

"Designed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dr. I. O. Church, a civil service examination for Alameda County health officer was called today. . . . Dr. Church, county health officer since September 27, 1932,

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.